ATAKE &
ASSOCIATES

September 9, 1999

DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305)
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket numbers:
98N-1230
96P-0418
97P-0197

To whom it may concern:

Each year the United States Egg industry force molts (intentionally starves for up to 14 days) millions of hens to manipulate egg production. Forced molting is so stressful it destroys the hens' immune system, predisposing the birds and their eggs to salmonella infection. The US Department of Agriculture's Food Safety & Inspection Service (FSIS) stated:

"FSIS recognizes that public health concerns are raised by highly stressful forced molting practices. For example, extended starvation and water deprivation practices lead to increased shedding of Salmonella enteritidis (Se) by laying hens subjected to these practices."

The FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices that! injure human health. Therefore, the FDA should ban the practice of forced molting **because it has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the starving hens' immune system. Forced molting of laying hens is the primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and consumers of eggs. The FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced molting. This petition should be granted without further delay. Putting Bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulating refrigeration temperatures is not enough to** ensure **human safety.**

Sincerely,

Marie Atake

96P-0418

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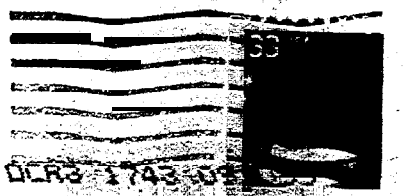
PawAngel@aol.com

MARIE ATKINS



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Rockville, MD 20852

Los Angeles Office
13128 Maxella Avenue, Suite 332
Marina del Rey, CA 90292

20837X0001

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code:	98N-1230/C580
See Docket Number/Item Code:	97P-0197/C581 96P-0418/C580